

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON EMBASSIES

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR YERESKOVSKIY CALLED ON SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEBRUARY 26 TO PROBE DEPARTMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT SOVIETS TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR APARTMENTS IN ADVANCE OF BEGINNING OF U.S. CONSTRUCTION IN MOSCOW.

2. YERESKOVSKIY REFERRED TO REPORTS SOVIET EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED ON TESTIMONY OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF HIRC. HE SAID HIS INFORMATION WAS THAT DEPARTMENT WITNESS HAD CITED \$100 MILLION AS OVERALL COST OF U.S. EMBASSY COMPLEX, WITH \$30 MILLION REQUESTED IN FY 1977, \$45 MILLION IN FY 1978 AND REMAINDER IN FY 1979 AND ASKED WHAT THIS MEANT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULING U.S. CONSTRUCTION. HE WAS TOLD THAT DEPT COULD CONFIRM ONLY THAT \$30 MILLION IN FUNDING BEING SOUGHT IN FY 1977, WHICH WOULD ENABLE U.S. CONSTRUCTION

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TO BEGIN ANY TIME IN THAT FISCAL YEAR, AND THAT ANY

OTHER FIGURES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MENTIONED WERE PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE. U.S. PLANS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO SOVIETS IN APRIL, AND AFTER THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON SOVIETS HOW LONG IT WOULD BE UNTIL U.S. CONSTRUCTION COULD START.

3. RE SOVIET DESIRE TO BEGIN ITS APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION IN ADVANCE OF U.S. CONSTRUCTION, YERESKOVSKIY WAS TOLD THIS WOULD DEPEND ON OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS ON LIST OF U.S. REQUIREMENTS PROVIDED TO SOVIET EMBASSY AND MFA. NEW INSTRUCTIONS WILL SOON BE PROVIDED TO EMBASSY WHICH SHOULD PERMIT PROGRESS ON COST ISSUE. OTHER ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, BUT THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO U.S. SIDE AND TO DATE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ENCOURAGED BY UPDK RESPONSES ON ISSUES SUCH AS APARTMENTS. DEPT OFFICER WENT OVER PROBLEMS CREATED BY FAILURE OF UPDK TO PROVIDE APARTMENTS ON PROMISED SCHEDULE AND LISTED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, STORAGE, SCHOOL, ACCESS TO NEW SITE AND OTHER POINTS AS ONES WHICH WE HOPED FOR PROMPT PROGRESS.

4. YERESKOVSKIY SAID THAT SOVIETS DID NOT REGARD U.S. LIST OF DESIDERATA AS "SERIOUS" BECAUSE OF INCLUSION OF (UNSPECIFIED) POINTS WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT U.S. HAD NOT PRESENTED "NON-NEGOTIABLE DEMANDS" BUT POINTS WHICH WE FELT COULD BE RESOLVED IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS.

5. FYI: DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FBO DID SAY IN PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEB. 24 THAT THE COST WOULD BE FROM \$75-100 MILLION. THE SPREADING OF THIS TOTAL COST WAS ALSO DISCUSSED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN THE SAME HEARING. YERESKOVSKIY'S STATEMENT IS THUS CORRECT. INGERSOLL

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